



COLORADO
Department of Transportation
Division of Transit & Rail

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DATE: October 29, 2021
TO: Transit & Rail Advisory Committee
State Transportation Advisory Committee
FROM: Amber Blake, Director - Division of Transit & Rail
Michael Timlin - Senior Manager of Mobility Operations & Deputy Division Director
RE: 2021-22 Snowstang and Pegasus Update

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on both the Winter 2021 Snowstang Operations and Pegasus launch.

Action

Informational only - no action is required.

Background

Snowstang will be returning in full service for the 2020-21 Winter season. The 2019-20 winter Snowstang service was successful but reduced as a result of the pandemic. In 2019-20, three (3) resorts participated in the partnership program including, Loveland Ski Area, Arapahoe Basin Ski Area, and Steamboat Ski and Resort Corp./City of Steamboat Springs, covering both Howelsen Hill and Steamboat Ski Corp. On March 14, 2020, Governor Polis issued Executive Order D 2020 004 ordering the closure of Downhill Ski Resorts due to the presence of COVID-19 in the State of Colorado. Snowstang also canceled operations in the Winter of 2020-21 due to the continuation of COVID restrictions.

Pegasus - The Transportation Commission approved what is now known as Bustang Pegasus in April 2021. To begin, Pegasus will operate Friday - Sunday plus Holiday Mondays as an express passenger transportation service featuring small accessible Ford Transit XL Vans working in the I-70 mountain corridor in near hourly headways or scheduled intervals. The initial route will commence express service between Denver Union Station and Avon, CO, with stops at the RTD Federal Center Light Rail Station, Frisco, and Vail. The vans are less than 25 feet long, operating in the Peak Period Shoulder Lanes (or Mountain Express Lanes) in Clear Creek County when active. With a vehicle capacity of fewer than 14 passengers, no CDL is required. Although, other Safety processes are, such as driver training programs and drug testing. The anticipated start date remains mid-December.

2021-2022 Snowstang Service

We are pleased to announce that Copper Mountain has joined Loveland, A-Basin, and Steamboat/Howelsen Hill in the Snowstang program. All 2021-22 contracts are either in execution or in review. Unless noted, Snowstang fares are anticipated to cover 40% of the Operations and Maintenance expenses.

- Steamboat Resort/Howelsen Hill -
 - As in 2019-20, this will be a weekend service departing the Denver Union Station on Saturdays at 5:25 am, Federal Center RTD Station Gate L at 5:55 am. The bus arrives at the Gondola Transportation Center on Mt. Werner (weather permitting) at approximately 9:30 am, and Stockbridge Transit Center at 9:45 am. On Sundays, the bus will depart Stockbridge at 3:30 pm and Gondola Station at 4:00 pm arriving in Denver Union Station at 7:55 pm.
 - Steamboat Ski Corp. and The City of Steamboat Springs will develop an agreement to provide 60% of the proposed Operations and Maintenance (O & M) of \$42,129.
 - Steamboat Ski Corp and City of Steamboat will share the cost of operations.
 - Fares will remain the same as 2019-20 at \$20 each way, with discounts for seniors, disabled, and children 2 - 11 y/o. Passengers will have the option of returning to Denver as their schedule dictates or returning on the daily morning Outrider schedules paying the appropriate unreserved Outrider fare. Snowstang tickets are not valid on the Outrider service.
 - Riders again will be responsible for their lodging, lift tickets, and luggage, although Christy Sports, next to the Gondola Transportation Center, offers very convenient and inexpensive daily luggage lockers.

- The season will run from December 11, 2021, to March 27, 2022, with additional service on Sunday and Monday of MLK Jr. Birthday weekend and Presidents Day weekend. There will be no service December 25-26, 2021
- Loveland Ski Area
 - As in 2019-20, departing the Denver Union Station on Saturdays and Sundays at 6:25 am, Federal Center RTD Station Gate L at 6:55 am. The bus arrives (weather permitting) at approximately 8:30 am. The bus will depart at 4:00 pm, arriving in Denver Union Station at 5:55 pm.
 - Loveland Ski Area will provide 60% of the proposed Operations and Maintenance (O & M) of \$47,332.
 - Fares will remain the same as 2019-20 at \$12.50 each way with discounts for seniors, disabled, and children 2 - 11 y/o.
 - Passengers will be able to purchase discounted Loveland lift tickets on the Bustang Webpage
 - The season will run from December 11, 2021, to April 24, 2022, with additional service on MLK Jr. Birthday, January 17, 2022, and Presidents Day, February 21, 2022. There will be no service December 25-26, 2021
- A-Basin
 - As in 2019-20, departing the Denver Union Station on Saturdays and Sundays at 6:15 am, Federal Center RTD Station Gate L at 6:40. The bus arrives (weather permitting) at approximately 8:30 am. The bus will depart at 4:00 pm, arriving in Denver Union Station at 6:05 pm.
 - Arapahoe Basin Ski Area will provide 60% of the proposed Operations and Maintenance (O & M) \$48,834.
 - Fares will remain the same as 2019-20 at \$12.50 each way with discounts for seniors, disabled, and children 2 - 11 y/o.
 - The season will run from December 18, 2021, to May 1, 2022, with additional service on MLK Jr. Birthday, January 17, 2022, and Presidents Day, February 21, 2022. There will be no service December 25-26, 2021
- Copper Mountain
 - Bus departs the Denver Union Station on Saturdays and Sundays at 6:05 am, Federal Center RTD Station Gate L at 6:35 is. The bus arrives (weather permitting) at approximately 8:30 am. The bus will depart at 4:00 pm, arriving in Denver Union Station at 6:05 pm.
 - Copper Mountain will provide 60% of the proposed Operations and Maintenance (O & M) \$52,243.
 - Fares will remain the same as 2019-20 at \$12.50 each way with discounts for seniors, disabled, and children 2 - 11 y/o.
 - The season will run from December 11, 2021, to April 24, 2022, with additional service on MLK Jr. Birthday, January 17, 2022, and Presidents Day, February 21, 2022. There will be no service December 25-26, 2021

Bustang Pegasus

Since Mid-April, when the Transportation Commission approved what is now Pegasus, the following milestones have been met:

- The name Pegasus was approved
- The Fleet bus warp was approved
- The Fleet was ordered in May, accepted by Ford Motor Company in June - 10- fully accessible Ford Transit XL Vans - with expected delivery in November.
- Schedule finalized with Ace Express Coaches, LLC., the Bustang/Snowstang/Pegasus operator.

Three (3) milestone items are still pending:

- Finalization of the Denver Union Station Pegasus Bus stop.
 - RTD does not allow vans or other automobiles in the bus Concourse; we have been collaborating with Denver DOTI for an appropriate bus stop near one of the Bus Concourse entrances along Wewatta, Wynkoop, or Chestnut entrances.
- We may have to delay the Pegasus launch until Mid-January 2022.
 - The global supply chain challenges may delay the delivery of our vans to Chico, CA for van conversion/customization. We have not been notified as such, but we are anticipating a possibility.
- A New five (5) year IGA parking agreement for the vans and Bustang bus is in negotiations with the Town of Avon.

Next Steps

- Finalize the Union Station Pegasus Stop with Denver DOTI by mid-November

- Decision mid-November on delaying Pegasus launch from Mid-December 2021 to mid-January 2022, dependent on vehicle delivery date
- Execute all Snowstang contracts by November 30, 2021
- Wrap the Copper Mountain Bus